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SOLAR OBSERVATIONS

SOLAR AND SKY RADIATION MEASUREMENTS DURING FEBRUARY, 1926

By HERBERT H. KIMBALL, Solar Radiation Investigations

For a description of instruments and exposures and an account of the method of obtaining and reducing the measurements, the reader is referred to the REVIEW for January, 1924, 52:42, January, 1925, 53:29, and July, 1925, 53:318.

From Table 1 it is seen that solar radiation intensities averaged slightly above February normals at all three stations except for a. m. observations at Lincoln.

Table 2 shows that the total solar and sky radiation received on a horizontal surface averaged below normal for all four weeks at the three stations for which normals have been determined.

No skylight polarization measurements were obtained at Madison, as the ground was covered with snow throughout the month. Measurements made on five days at Washington give a mean of 58 per cent with a maximum of 60 per cent on the 25th. These are close to the February averages for Washington.

TABLE 1.—Solar radiation intensities during February, 1926

[Gram-calories per minute per square centimeter of normal surface.]

WASHINGTON, D. C.												
Date	Sun's zenith distance											Local mean solar time
	8 a.m.	78.7°	75.7°	70.7°	60.0°	0.0°	60.0°	70.7°	75.7°	78.7°	Noon	
	75th mer. time	Air mass										
		A. M.						P. M.				
		e.	5.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	*1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	5.0	
Feb. 5	<i>mm.</i>	<i>cal.</i>	<i>cal.</i>	<i>cal.</i>	<i>cal.</i>	<i>cal.</i>	<i>cal.</i>	<i>cal.</i>	<i>cal.</i>	<i>cal.</i>	<i>mm.</i>	
11	2.26	0.72	0.87	1.07	1.34		1.33	1.20			2.16	
16	1.52		0.75	0.93	1.09		1.22	0.98			1.45	
17	2.74	0.64	0.79	0.92	1.18						2.26	
20	1.68	0.63	0.84	0.96	1.20						3.00	
23	3.45						1.38	1.17	0.92	0.80	2.62	
24	1.96	0.66	0.82	0.95	1.07						2.16	
26	3.00	0.92	1.00	1.16	1.25						2.26	
Means		0.71	0.84	1.00	1.17		1.31	1.12 (0.92)	(0.80)		3.30	
Departures		±0.00	+0.03	+0.02	+0.01		+0.12	+0.15	+0.08	+0.04		

TABLE 1.—Solar radiation intensities during February, 1926—Con.

MADISON, WIS.

Date	Sun's zenith distance											Local mean solar time
	8 a.m.	78.7°	75.7°	70.7°	60.0°	0.0°	60.0°	70.7°	75.7°	78.7°	Noon	
	75th mer. time	Air mass										
		A. M.					P. M.					
		e.	5.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	*1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	5.0	
Feb. 15.....	mm.	cal.	cal.	cal.	cal.	cal.	cal.	cal.	cal.	cal.	mm.	
19.....	1.32	1.04	1.15	1.29	1.46	1.60	1.67	1.67	1.67	1.67	1.68	
23.....	1.19	0.71	1.11	1.27	1.46	1.67	1.67	1.67	1.67	1.67	1.52	
26.....	1.96	0.71	0.78	1.11	1.27	1.46	1.67	1.67	1.67	1.67	3.00	
27.....	2.26	1.07	1.17	1.28	1.44	1.60	1.67	1.67	1.67	1.67	2.16	
27.....	1.32	1.07	1.17	1.28	1.44	1.60	1.67	1.67	1.67	1.67	1.78	
Means.....		0.94	1.05	1.28	1.43	1.62						
Departures.....		±0.00	-0.06	+0.04	+0.06							

LINCOLN, NEBR.

Feb. 6.....	4.17			1.25	1.41						5.16
7.....	3.99					1.41	1.30				6.02
9.....	3.81	1.09	1.21	1.34	1.62	1.46	1.31	1.19	1.07	3.99	
12.....	4.57	0.90	1.02	1.17	1.34	1.54	1.32	1.20	1.08	0.93	6.27
15.....	1.96	0.72	0.93	1.10	1.22		1.39	1.14	1.10	0.96	2.74
22.....	3.15						1.28	1.14	1.00	0.84	3.81
23.....	3.81			1.09	1.30						3.81
27.....	3.63			1.23							4.37
28.....	3.99			1.14	1.30						4.95
Means.....		0.90	1.05	1.18	1.30	1.58	1.37	1.22	1.09	0.95	
Departures.....		-0.05	+0.01	-0.02	-0.08		+0.02	+0.05	+0.06	+0.04	

*Extrapolated.

551.506 (261.1) WEATHER OF NORTH AMERICA AND ADJACENT OCEANS

NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

By F. A. YOUNG

February was another unusually stormy month over the North Atlantic. The percentage of days with gales was considerably above the normal over the middle and western sections of the steamer lanes, where they were reported on from 7 to 9 days, the storm area on a number of days extending as far south as the 35th parallel. The conditions over the eastern section of the northern steamer lanes were moderate as compared with the two previous months, although that region was by no means free from heavy weather. A number of reports were received from vessels indicating winds of force 11 and 12, although they were not quite as common as in January, and the number of marine casualties was also less.

TABLE 1.—Averages, departures, and extremes of atmospheric pressures at sea level, 8 a. m. (75th meridian), North Atlantic Ocean, February, 1926

Stations	Average pressure	Departure ¹	Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
	Inches	Inch	Inches		Inches	
St. Johns, Newfoundland.....	29.47	-0.35	30.10	15th.....	28.64	12th.
Nantucket.....	29.79	-0.27	30.28	17th.....	29.16	4th.
Hatteras.....	29.97	-0.16	30.46	17th.....	29.54	10th.
Key West.....	30.09	+0.01	30.30	28th.....	29.84	10th.
New Orleans.....	30.08	-0.02	30.36	20th.....	29.82	14th.
Swan Island.....	29.94	-0.05	30.06	20th.....	29.86	10th.
Turks Island.....	30.08	0.00	30.16	6th.....	29.94	11th.
Bermuda.....	30.06	-0.08	30.46	18th.....	29.50	11th.
Horta, Azores.....	30.04	-0.09	30.56	28th.....	29.42	4th.
Lerwick, Shetland Islands.....	29.71	-0.01	30.23	28th.....	29.62	17th.
Valencia, Ireland.....	29.66	-0.24	30.66	28th.....	28.97	1st.
London.....	29.87	-0.13	30.58	28th.....	29.27	3d.

¹ From normals shown on H. O. Pilot Chart, based on observations at Greenwich mean noon, or 7 a. m., 75th meridian.² And on other dates.

TABLE 2.—Solar and sky radiation received on a horizontal surface

[Gram-calories per square centimeter of horizontal surface]

Week beginning—	Average daily radiation					Average daily departure from normal		
	Wash- ington	Madi- son	Lin- coln	Chi- cago	New York	Wash- ington	Madi- son	Lin- coln
	cal.	cal.	cal.	cal.	cal.	cal.	cal.	cal.
1926								
January 29.....	120	104	145	44	66	-78	-96	-100
February 5.....	159	163	251	48	132	-57	-54	-16
12.....	218	176	263	54	104	-16	-63	-31
19.....	241	196	266	83	108	-17	-63	-13
Deficiency since first of year on Feb. 25.....						-1,190	-2,212	-2,191

Fog was unusually prevalent off the New England coast and in the Gulf of Mexico, while the number of days on which it occurred was about normal in the vicinity of the British Isles, and somewhat below over the Grand Banks and steamer lanes.

Low pressure prevailed at practically all of the stations during the greater part of the month, although at Horta there were two short periods in the second and third decades, respectively, when the barometric readings were considerably above normal, indicating that the North Atlantic HIGH was well developed.

Charts VIII to XIII show the conditions from the 1st to 6th, inclusive. During the first part of this period the same disturbance shown on Charts X and XI for January covered the eastern section of the steamer lanes. The Low that was central near St. Johns, Newfoundland, on the 6th, as shown on Chart XIII, moved steadily eastward, and on the 7th the center was near 45° N., 40° W., and moderate to strong gales prevailed over the region between the 35th and 50th parallels and the 35th and 50th meridians. The Low that was off the coast of Ireland on the 6th moved but little, decreasing in intensity, as on the 7th moderate weather prevailed over the eastern section of the steamer lanes, although on that date and the 8th vessels between the Azores and the Spanish coast reported moderate southwesterly gales.

On the 8th there was a slight depression off Hatteras that afterward developed into a severe disturbance. On that date there was also a Low central near 50° N., 40° W., and strong gales swept the steamer lanes between the 30th and 50th meridians. The Hatteras disturbance moved northeastward along the coast, and on the 10th was near Nantucket. On the 11th it was near Halifax, while on both of these dates southwesterly to north-